

NETWORK APPLICATION PROGRAM INTERFACE  
FACILITATING COMMUNICATION  
IN A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A request broker (50) receives a request (76a) from a client (18), including a description (82) of a method and parameters (84) to be used in executing the method. The parameters (84) have one of multiple acceptable native formats. The request  
5 broker (50) determines the native format of the parameters (84) and communicates the parameters (84) in the native format to a selected one of multiple translators (24) for translation to an internal format, where each translator (24) is associated with a different native format. The request broker (50) communicates the parameters (84) in the internal format to an application server system (32) to enable execution of the  
10 method, receives a return value from the application server system (32) reflecting execution of the method, communicates the return value in the internal format to the selected translator (24) for translation to the native format, generates a reply (76b) including the description (82) of the method and the return value (86) in the native format, and communicates the reply (76b) to the client (18).